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CHAPTER IX

EDUCATION

1. General.

871 797 Some years ago Ching Ho was well provided with educational facilities. There was a public school of six grades accommodating about one hundred pupils; the Presbyterian Church maintained a boys' school and a girls' school of the lower primary type; the Mohammedans had their own school for teaching their language and bible, and there was also a private school run by Dr. Wang of the town. At the time of the survey the missionary schools, had been closed for about two years, and Dr. Wangs school closed just about the time the survey started, because Dr. Wang himself was too busy with his professional work and Party business to carry on the school work also. Therefore, at the time when the enquiry was made there was only one regular school open, and that was supported by public funds and controlled by the political authorities, The Mobammedan school was still open, but its influence does not extend beyond the mohammedan community itself.

871 658 However, during the course of our survey a very interesting experiment was made in Ching Ho by the Party authorities. After taking control of the political machinery and finances in Ching Ho, they made several enquiries and found that in most of the

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village schools the old type of teacher was still employed to teach the Confucian texts, and so they decided to open a school to train teachers to serve in the villages under the political headquarters of the Fifth district of Wan Ping Hsien. Although the experiment was not particularly successful, yet it is very impor tant as an experiment, because previously teachers for rural schools have always been trained in the cities, and no town of the size of Ching Ho has done anything towards training teachers for its own schools.

The adequacy of a public school as an institution for improvement can only be measured by the percentage of literates in the in the town, and by the percentage of children of school age who are registered as pupils. The store population will naturally have a high percentage of literates because every clerk should be able to write a bill or make out an account, and all apprentices learn to do this. The following table gives a summary of literacy of the store population over ten years of age. We heve taken ten as the dividing line because children below that age still have a good chance of learning to read and write :—

TABLE XLIX. LITERACY OF STORE POPULATION

Literacy.	Total		Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Can not read	180	31.0	138	25.3	42	100.0
Can read	154	26 3	154	28.5	0	0
Can write	250	42.7	250	46.2	0	0
Total	584	100.0	542	100.0	42	100.0
Unknown	2		2			